ects (OPTP) which were operating till 1989-90 have been merged during 1990-91 into a single scheme namely Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) This schema provides essential assistance to the States for production and distribution of quality seeds, plant protection measures including supply of plant protection chemicals and equipments and organising demonstration of advanced technology, with particular reference to mustard, groundnut, soyabean and sunflower.

2. Supporting oilseeds projects of the NDDB.

3. A Technology Mission on Oilseeds was established in May, 1986 for harnessing the best of production, processing and management technologies.

4. Intensification of research efforts for increasing the production of oilseeds.

5. Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soyabeen and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc

6. Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

7. Assistance for oil palm development.

8. Better incentive to producers through fixation of minimum support prices of major oilseeds.

9. Identification of equipments for modernisation of processing units. custom duty concession on imports of certain equipments.

10. Funding research and development programmes undertaken by various Institutions for fuller exploitation of oil from oil bearing materials.

[*English*]

Prices of Essential Commodities

5520. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Proxy' farmers have been partially responsible for the spurt in the prices of Essential Commodities as reported in Hindustan Times dated January 7, 1992:

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). The supply of essential commodities in the open market has been hampered by various factors including the reported retention of these commodities by the farmers in larger quantity than their requirements. Such an activity creates inbalance in the normal demand and supply management This Ministry has not received any specific reports regarding the hoarding of essential commodities by 'Proxy Farmers' However, the Government is committed to control the prices of essential commodities within reasonable limits. Stringent action is being taken under Essential Commodities Act and other

similar legislations. States/UT Administrations have been asked to use these legislations against those who are including in anti-social activities including hoarding and black-marketing etc.

Privatisation of Public Sector units

5521. SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK:
SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any criteria for privatising the public sector units;

(b) if so, the details of the public sector units privatised so far, and

(c) the number of employees retrenched as a result of privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. *THUNGON*): *(a) No, Sir.*

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Transfer of Technology from NRIs/ Foreign Countries

5522. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the existing rules/guidelines regarding transfer of technology from foreign countries into India by NRIs and by foreigners;

(b) the number of applications received for transfer of technology during the last three years;

(c) the procedure for receiving applications, processing the same and giving approval; and

(d) the present status of the applications received during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (d). As spelt out in the Statement on Industrial Policy tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 24th July, 1991:-

(i) The Reserve Bank of India accords automatic permission for foreign technology agreements upto a lumpsum payment of Rs. 1 crore, 5% royalty for domestic sales and 8% for exports, subject to total payments of 8% of sales over a ten year period from date of agreement or seven years from commencement of production.

(ii) Other proposals need specific approval of the Government under the general procedures in force.

Applications for foreign technical collaboration coming within the purview of automatic approval are received in Form FC (RBI) by the Reserve Bank of India, scrutinised to check that proposals conform to the prescribed parameters and approvals or other disposal letters are issued without any bottlenecks by the Reaserve Bank of India. Other proposals for foreign technical collaboration are received in Form STA (FC) by the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals in the Ministry of Industry and are circulated for examination and comments by administrative Ministries, Technical Evaluation Committee of the DGTD etc. Thereafter, the proposals are placed before the Project Approval Board and based on the recommendation of the Board, Government finally issue approv-